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Tell Me More Of The Church

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TELL ME MORE OF THE CHURCH

I. Often times we are asked to define things.

A. What is the Great Society?

B. Is alcoholism a disease or sin?

C. What is meant by planned parenthood?

II. I'm not surprised when one asks me "What is the church of Christ?"

A. How would you define it?

1. W.H. Griffith Thomas in "The Holy Spirit of God" page 169 "It is nothing less, it can be nothing more than the community of individual Christians."

2. Dr. Hort "The Church in its widest sense as the body of Christ is not the aggregate of particular churches but of individuals." The Christian Ecclesia Pg. 168

3. Paul tells how we got there.

I Cor. 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we

B. The Holy Spirit greatly functions in the church.

1. Abides in the church.

I Cor. 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple

I Cor. 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body

a. We are temple, Spirit abides there.

2. Builds up church.

a. As living stones--added to spiritual house.

3. Administers the church in:

a. Worship.

Phil. 3:3 "For we are the circumcision, which

b. Witnessing.

Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after

c. Evangelising.

Acts 8:29 "Then the Spirit said unto Philip

d. Missionary.

Acts 13:2 "As they ministered to the Lord

e. Fellowship.

Phil. 2:1 "If there be therefore any consol

f. New undertakings.

Acts 16:6-7 "Now when they had gone thro

Rom. 8:14 "For as many as are led by the

4. Unifies.

Eph. 4:3 "Endeavoring to keep the unity of t

C. Various metaphors show what the church is. Shall we see some that describe those who believe in Jesus.

I John 5:1 "Whosoever believeth that Jesus who confess Him

I John 4:15 "Whosoever shall confess that

1. 110x used in N.T., 86x by Paul.

D. Here are 4, all start with B. *So we being many*

1. It is regarded as a Body. *5: are 1 body, ~~part~~ every,*

Rom. 12:3-5 "For I say, through the grace g

I Cor. 12:12-13 "For as the body is one, and

I Cor. 12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ

Eph. 1:22 "And hath put all things under his

a. As head is to the body so is Christ to the church.

b. They are organically connected.

c. Church is an organism, not 2 parts in juxta position.

d. He is our life.

- 3
- e. He is our thought and purpose.
 - f. He is our power.
 - g. Him we obey -- we need Him for life, sensation and volition.
 - h. He needs us for expression and activity.
 - i. Each Chr. is a member and supplies something *which all the body by joints & bands having*
nur. min. knit together, increaseth e. th-
 Eph. 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly
 Col. 2:19 "And not holding the Head, from
 (1) We need each other for nourishment, growth, progress, fellowship.
 (2) He didn't call us to the solitary life.
 Eph. 3:18 "May be able to comprehend with
 j. He wants unity. *with all the saints*
make both one & brotherhood
 Eph. 2:14 "For he is our peace, who hath made
 Eph. 2:16 "And that he might reconcile both
 Eph. 2:18 "For through him we both have *access*
 k. In the body are various gifts. *by I S.*
2. It is a building.
- a. Foundation.
 Eph. 2:20 "And are built upon the foundation
 b. Cornerstone -- for coherence and stability of the structure.
 Eph. 2:20 "And are built upon the foundation
 I Cor. 3:11 "For other foundation can no man
 c. Stones.
 I Pet. 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up
 d. Character of:
 (1) A temple.
 Eph. 2:21 "In whom all the building fitly
 e. It continuously grows.

Eph. 2:21 "In whom all the building fitly fr

3. It's the Bride. *espoused to one husband... chaste virgin*

2 Cor. 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with

Rom. 7:1-4 "Know ye not, bre., (for I speak

a. This shows relationship of love.

Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even

b. We see unity. *that he might sanctify*

I Cor. 6:17 "But he that is joined unto the

c. We see duty. *Lord is one Spirit*

Eph. 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto

Eph. 5:23 "For the husband is the head of

d. We see the future.

Eph. 5:27 "That he might present it to him

4. It is a brotherhood.

Eph. 2:19 "Now therefore ye are no more st

a. We are children.

Eph. 1:5 "Having predestinated us unto the

Eph. 5:1 "Be ye therefore followers of God

Eph. 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darknes

Eph. 2:19 "Now therefore ye are no more

Phil. 3:20 "For our conversation is in heav

b. Called saints--separated for him.

Eph. 6:18 "Praying always with all prayer

c. The faithful.

Eph. 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ b

d. There is peace.

Eph. 4:3-4 "Endeavoring to keep the unity

e. Also unity.

Eph. 3:15 "Of whom the whole family in he

5. Though they are not "B" words we might probe further:

a. Vine.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches."

b. Flock.

John 10:16 "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold."

c. Temple.

1 Pet. 2:4 "To whom coming, as unto a living stone."

d. Family.

Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also predestinated."

II. We conclude with these observations.

A. It is an organism rather than an organization.

B. It, Christianity as Newman said "Came into the world as an idea rather than an institution."

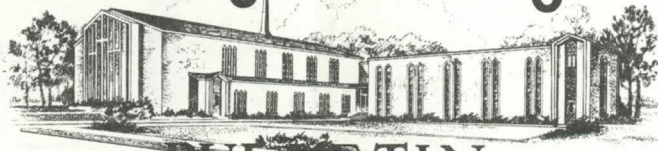
C. Man may belong to a visible church without belonging to that unseen--He can be united with outward society without being spiritually united with Christ.

D. Conversely if a man is a part of the invisible he is also a member of the visible church.

E. A man in Christ joins himself to other men.

1. Christian living alone and working apart from brethren is unknown in N.T.

BROADWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST



-BULLETIN-

2855 BROADWAY

PADUCAH, KY.

POPULATION OUTPACES CHURCH GROWTH

Here is some information taken from Christianity Today that will be of interest to members of the Lord's church. The language is in denominational terminology but we are happy to see the fact that the Churches of Christ still are noted as the fastest growing religious group in our nation today. The plea for the restoration of New Testament Christianity is gaining momentum. May God help us to recognize our responsibility and go forward!

"Church growth is not quite keeping up with population growth, according to figures in the 1967 Yearbook of American Churches, published this month by the National Council of Churches.

"The data covers mainly calendar 1965, or denominations' fiscal years that ended in 1965. In this period 124,682,422 Americans belonged to some religious group, an increase of 1.4 million over the previous year. But in roughly the same period, the U.S. population grew by 2.5 million, to nearly 195 million. Church membership increased by 1.1%, while the general population grew by 1.3 percent.

"The rankings of major religious groupings were similar to those in the previous count:

Protestant	69,088,183
Roman Catholic	46,246,175
Jewish	5,600,000
Eastern Orthodox	3,172,163

Old and National Catholic	483,901
Buddhist	92,000

"The ranking of the largest non-Catholic communions also contained few surprises. The biggest numerical gains were posted by two conservative congregational groups, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Churches of Christ (the latter's figure, however, is a rough estimate at best). Large denominations losing membership over the year were, in order of losses: the American Baptist Convention, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, The American Lutheran Church, and the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

"More startling is the fact that three of the top fifteen groups have actually lost members since 1956, despite the huge population increase: the ABC, the Disciples, and the United Church of Christ.

"In 1956, the National Baptist Convention of America reported the same figure it gives in the 1967 Yearbook, highlighting again the fact that the volume is no more reliable than the 251 denominations that supply the data. Another problem with figures is that Roman Catholics and other groups tally baptized infants, while the rest count only confirmed or adult members.

1. Southern Baptist*	10,770,573
2. Methodist	10,331,574
3. National Baptist Inc.	5,500,000

(continued on next page)